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RURAL SCHOOLS IN WILLIAMSBURG CO.

REPORT OF THEIR CONDITION BY THE RURAL SCHOOL SUPERVISOR

The County Record has received from State Supervisor of Rural schools D. L. Lewis for publication a copy of his report, recently made to State Superintendent of Education J. E. Swearingen, on the condition of schools in Williamsburg county.

Mr. Lewis' Report Follows

Hon. J. E. Swearingen, Dear sir: Below is given a review of school conditions among the rural schools of Williamsburg county, as obtained as observed during the week ending February 12th:

On arriving at Kingstree on Tuesday morning, February 8th, I went to the court house and conferred with the county treasurer as to the system of bookkeeping carried on among the auditor, treasurer and county superintendent. The county treasurer told me that tax returns were not made by school districts, as the law requires, and that he (the treasurer) did not make monthly reports of school funds collected by school districts, to the county superintendent, as the law also requires. It is impossible for the county superintendent of education to do accurate bookkeeping unless the tax books are made up by school districts, and unless the county treasurer reports monthly the collections of school taxes by school districts. Of course, the treasurer cannot report the three-mill tax by school districts, but he can report monthly the amount of three mill tax collected in the county, and the county superintendent can apportion it according to the enrollment of the preceding year. Many county superintendents do not enter receipts of school taxes to the credit of the respective school districts at all, but make each year, from the auditor's abstract, an estimate of the school funds for each school district, and use this estimate as the receipts for each particular district. This is not bookkeeping, but guess-work, and would not be tolerated in any first class business establishment.

The law requires that the tax returns be made each year by school districts, not by townships, that the auditor's books and treasurer's duplicates be made up by school districts, that the treasurer report monthly to the county superintendent by school districts all school taxes collected except the three-mill tax and that the treasurer and the county superintendent each shall keep a general cash book and a school district ledger, the general cash book showing at any time the total receipts and disbursements, and the school district ledger showing at any time the receipts and disbursements by school districts. (See sections 577, 580, 581, 582, 583, 586, general school law of South Carolina. Also section 1768, general school law of South Carolina.) It is hoped that the auditor, the treasurer, and the superintendent of education of Williamsburg county will keep their books as the law requires.

On the same day I visited the Kingstree Graded and High School, where I found most excellent work being done. Why? Because there are fifteen teachers, experienced, well paid, in the school which runs nine months, and because the school has a superintendent of successful experience.

I also visited on Tuesday the graded school at Lane.

I found conditions to be unsatisfactory, due to the fact that the school for the past year or two, has been under weak discipline, with the result that the larger pupils are backward, and do not know how to study. The remedy is with the principal. He should expect and require of his pupils the best discipline and hard work in order that the upper grades may reach the standard they should attain. The question of securing discipline and good work in a school is a question of common sense. If the principal does not control the pupils, the pupils will run over the school. The principal is put in charge of a school to control it, and it can be controlled. I am sure the unsatisfactory conditions now prevailing at Lane will be done away with in the near future.

On Wednesday I visited Airmwell, each a two-teacher school, were visited. Both schools were doing good work as can be done in two-teacher schools.

On Thursday I visited Greelyville and Mulberry schools. At Greelyville I found a good school with six teach-

METHODISTS PLAN BIG FUND

Memphis Conference Decides to Raise \$3,000,000 Next June

The date for the \$3,000,000 campaign to be conducted by the Methodist Episcopal church, south, for the upbuilding of its educational institutions, was fixed for the week of May 29 to June 5, at a meeting of members of the educational commission and representatives of the 37 conferences, held in Memphis, Tenn.

"A pessimist is worse than a Hun," Bishop James Atkins of Nashville, told members of the commission, adding that "hard times is the cry of the coward."

Lad Attempts to Get Even

Thomas Langdon, of Center, Neb., broke up a country dance by new methods and now two constables are after him. It is alleged that Langdon, angry at a rival who escorted a young woman to a party at a country schoolhouse, dropped two skunks into the room and then nailed the windows shut and tied the door from the outside.

Eleven of the 17 girls promptly fainted. While the boys were busy with them, the stove began to pour forth volumes of smoke because a board and several rocks had been put on top of the chimney.

ers and 28 pupils in the high school grades. Unfortunately Greelyville could not qualify for the state high school aid, owing, for one thing, to the very small sixth and seventh grades, which do not have sufficient pupils to form a nucleus for a high school. Steps should be taken by the Greelyville people to get some nearby school to consolidate with Greelyville, so as to have a sufficient number of pupils to form a nucleus for a high school. There is great need for a high school at Greelyville, as a large scope of country around is now left without high school facilities.

At Mulberry I found a good two-teacher school.

On Friday, I visited the school at Cades. Here I found an excellent building which could accommodate four teachers, and even five if necessary, but in which there were only three teachers. The school was doing good work. Sanitary conditions are going to be remedied at once.

I wish to call attention to the number of one teacher schools in Williamsburg county. Most of the country schools are of these types. Now, it is high time that our country people should realize that the country children cannot be educated in schools of this type. A one-teacher school can teach successfully only seven grades, and a two-teacher school can teach successfully only eight grades. What are our country children going to do after they have completed the work in such schools? There are only two things that can be done: Either have centralized high schools every ten or twelve miles apart, to which high schools the country children can go after completing the course in the one and two-teacher schools; or, consolidate the one and two-teacher schools into schools of four and five teachers, these schools having good male principals if possible, and a yearly session of eight months. In no other way can we give to our country children the education they deserve and should have. Ignorance and prejudice are the two things that keep country communities from uniting and having the schools their children should have. Any community should be willing to give something better for their children. I hope that the country people everywhere will wake up the situation and prepare to educate their children, who deserve just as good education as do the town and city children. If it is better for Kingstree to have 15 teachers in one building, why is it not better for the country schools to have more teachers in each school? D. L. Lewis, State Supervisor Rural Schools

Three rear Pullman cars on train number 81, one of the fastest trains on the Atlantic Coast Railroad passing through Kingstree from New York to Havana, and known as the "Havana Special," were derailed at 1:22 Monday afternoon about six miles north of Petersburg, Va. Beyond a slight shaking up none of the passengers were injured.

Mr. Louis J. Stackley who has been attending for some time the Brown Embalming school at Raleigh, N. C., returned home Tuesday, having completed his course and graduated as an embalmer. Mr. Stackley will have charge of the undertaking department of the Kingstree Hardware Company.

DR. SNIDER PASSES AWAY

Well Known Dentist of Kingstree Dies At Eighty-two

Dr. A. M. Snider the well known and popular dentist of this place died unexpectedly at his home on Railroad Avenue about 2 o'clock Monday afternoon. He was eighty-two years of age and with the exception of occasional spells of inability which usually lasted only for a day or two, enjoyed robust health, he was conceded to be an unusually active man for his advanced years. Dr. Snider was a member of the Baptist church.

He was a native of Orangeburg county and served in the War Between the States. He was thrice married, first to a Miss Rush, of Elloree, to this union the following children were born and survive: Dr. E. J. Snider, Toledo, Ohio; Dr. W. W. Snider, Dublin, Texas; H. Bruce Snider, Havana, Cuba; C. H. Snider, Conway; Rev. H. J. Snider, Woodruff; Mrs. E. C. Epps and Mrs. H. E. Montgomery, Kingstree, and Mrs. C. O. Thompson, Charleston. After the death of his first wife, he married Mrs. Doshia Graham, of this county, she died about three years ago and he later married Miss Ella Anderson, of Timmonville, who also survives him.

Dr. Snider was a man of sound and sturdy character and possessed of many of the higher virtues that men are heir to, he was charitable almost to a fault. To him there was nothing too good for a friend. Doctor Snider was able to be on the streets Thursday and practiced his profession up to that day. He is well known throughout this county and the state, having practiced his profession in a number of other counties before coming to Kingstree. The remains were taken to Elloree where interment was made yesterday.

Funeral services were conducted at the home here at 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in which the Revs. Daniel McDowell and Davis took part. The funeral party in charge of the remains left on the 6:17 p. m. train via Sumter for Elloree. Those accompanying the body were Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Montgomery, Mrs. E. C. Epps, Mr. C. H. Snider, Rev. H. J. Snider, Rev. E. A. McDowell, C. C. Buress and E. F. Martin.

Civic League Meeting Thursday.

The Civic and Library Association held its regular monthly meeting last Thursday at which time quite a number of matters were discussed. The principal thing being the request from citizens to have the library kept open each afternoon and until 10 o'clock at night as a reading room for the young men. The association realizes the value of a reading room but is in doubt as to whether sufficient funds can be had to maintain it and also whether the library is the logical place to have it. A committee consisting of Messrs. T. E. Arrowsmith, L. W. Gilliland, A. C. Hinds and Miss Agnes Echman, was appointed to confer with the town council about the matter and be ready to make a report at the next regular meeting, the first Thursday in March.

It was further decided to open the library three days each week, instead of two, these three days being Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The association is desirous of meeting the wishes of the people in every possible way, but additional funds would be required to meet this desire. The lighting system in the building is defective and cannot be used, so all of these things will have to be considered and discussed with the council. Meet with us at our annual meeting, March 3rd, 1921, and give us the help of your presence and cooperation.

Mrs. LeRoy Lee, Secretary.

Concert at Lane

On Sunday evening at 8 o'clock, the "J. Lani Pa Hawaiian Quartet" entertained the guests at the Baggett Hotel at Lane, with a complimentary concert. Mr. Pa and his Hawaiian troupe spent Sunday night at Lane as the invited guests of Mr. Plowden, proprietor of the Baggett Hotel, owing to a former friendship, and the citizens of Lane were very fortunate indeed at having the opportunity of hearing this splendid quartet.

The concert was held in the lobby, special seats having been arranged to accommodate the guests, and for two hours the attention was held by the sweet strains of the native Hawaiians, on their native instruments. A number of native songs as well as others were enjoyed to the utmost by all present. The evening will long be remembered with pleasure by those who heard them.

NEW BILLS OFFERED.

What the Solons are Doing in Columbia.

By a vote of 71 to 22, the the House of Representatives on Thursday, killed a resolution to limit the 1921 cotton acreage to 1-3 of the 1920 crop acreage, the bill was killed on motion of Representative Binniker, of Orangeburg, himself a farmer, who urged that nothing be done to interfere with the farmer's privilege.

The bill by Representative Simonioff of Charleston, providing for the examination of all men before marriage, was introduced for the second time in the house, late last week, the measure having been sent back to a special committee for redraft. At first it applied to men and women. It was redrafted so as to apply only to men. The bill would require a prospective bridegroom to present a physician's certificate to show that he was free from venereal disease. A bill is pending which provides that women applying for registration shall not be required to tell their age. They will simply be required to show that they are twenty years of age and are entitled to vote.

Representative Smith, of Columbia, has introduced in the House of Representatives a bill to make November 11, Armistice Day, a legal holiday, "in commemoration of the valiant and heroic service of South Carolinians in the World."

Representative J. O. Williams, of Pickens, a student of the University Law School, has introduced a bill which would prohibit the use of automobile cut-outs on the public highways of the state, with a penalty for violation of the law of not more than \$100 fine or 30 days imprisonment.

Postponement of taxes with penalties until May is provided in the free conference committee report on the bill, which has already passed both branches of the legislature, delaying the imposition of tax penalties for 1921. The report of the free conference committee conform closely to the form of the bill as adopted by the House of Representatives with penalties as follows: One per cent, in January, 2 per cent in February, 3 per cent in March, 3 in April and 7 in May, with collections by executions after May 15. The House plan differed from this only in respect to April, that being four instead of three. The Senate bill would have provided for no penalties until April 1, after that date the penalty being seven per cent.

NAZARETH BAYAJIAN COMING.

Native of Armenia to speak at Baptist Church Sunday Night.

The people of Kingstree will get a first-hand view of the terrible conditions now prevailing in Armenia when Nazareth Aria Boyajian, a native of that country speaks here next Sunday night in the Baptist church. Mr. Boyajian has just returned to South Carolina, having stopped in New York for a conference with the Near East Relief Workers.

Mr. Boyajian declared that conditions in Armenia are almost indescribable. Discussing the situation he is quoted as saying: "We are killed; we are tortured; we are hung; we are starving, first of all because we are Christians. We are Christians of ages; we are the original Christians; we have been fighting 1,300 years."

Mr. Boyajian will tell the people of Kingstree the conditions that prevail in Armenia today. He has fought in the wars in Armenia. He has seen the horrors; has seen the starvation; seen men torn asunder, seen women carried away captive, seen husbands killing their wives when the Turks came to snatch them away. He has seen mothers take their children in bags and flee to save them.

The people of Kingstree will hear a message they will not soon forget when they hear Mr. Boyajian next Sunday.

S. McB. Graham Dead.

Mr. Samuel McBride Graham, a highly esteemed Williamsburg farmer of the Leo section died Saturday at the Baker Sanatorium in Charleston, where he had undergone an operation and was under treatment. Mr. Graham was about 45 years of age and a successful farmer. He is survived by his wife and three children. The deceased was buried in the family burial ground near Leo Sunday.

Mrs. Warren G. Harding, wife of the President-elect, passed through Kingstree Friday morning enroute to St. Augustine, Fla. to join her husband.

TO SANTEE BRIDGE SITE

Commissioners Inspect the Highway In Berkeley

An inspection of the proposed roadway and bridge site at the Santee river was made by Messrs. W. King McDowell, William F. Burguson, M. Rutledge Rivers and Charles J. Baker. Messrs. McDowell, Burguson and Baker are active members of the commission, Mr. McDowell being the chairman and Mr. Burguson the secretary. The party traveled to the bridge site and back in a Ford sedan. They left Charleston at 9 o'clock in the morning and returned here by 6 in the afternoon.

The party reported that on the whole the condition of the road is fair. Work is going forward in the vicinity of Moncks Corner, the road being scraped and widened. The party found that with ditches to facilitate drainage this stretch of highway ought to be very good for travel.

At the river, where the bridge site has been staked by engineers, it was found that in order to construct the approaches on both sides a considerable number of cypress trees will have to be felled. This part of the work—the construction of the embankments—is likely to be a large task.

While the commissioners are not prepared to discuss the question of selling bonds for the bridge, it is known that progress has been made and the commissioners appear to be confident of getting a good price for the issue of \$200,000 in the name of the Santee river bridge district, comprising the counties of Charleston, Berkeley and Williamsburg.—Charleston News and Courier.

Schools Facing Critical Condition

Editor County Record:

I give below letter of Mr. J. E. Swearingen, State Supt. of Education. It will be seen from this letter that there is grave doubt of the state making good as to its guarantee of the school term under the equalizing act. Nearly all of our schools are run on the basis of this act high schools as well as others. The act is simply a guarantee of a seven months term for all schools levying at least 8 mills and enrolling 25 pupils for each teacher and maintaining an average attendance of at least 15. Last year the appropriation was not sufficient, and Williamsburg schools were left in debt to the extent of nearly \$8,000 of claims approved by the state superintendent of education. If the appropriation of this year is not sufficient to cover this, and also to take care of demands under the act for the present year financial conditions will be deplorable. This equalizing act is never available until about June 1. Heretofore I have been willing to bank on the state's guarantee of a seven months term. Under the present conditions the situation is serious.

J. G. McCollough, County Superintendent of Education.

Mr. Swearingen's Letter

Supt. J. G. McCollough, Kingstree, S. C.,

Dear sir:

The postponement of taxes has been authorized by the Legislature. This will seriously affect the schools. Teachers, trustees and county superintendents should look carefully into their school finances. Trustees have no right to borrow money or run into debt. This should be impressed upon the trustees of Williamsburg county, because this feature of the law has been disregarded in your territory. It is equally harmful for any county board of education to borrow during February, March, April, May, June and July. Since your term expires June 30th, it is emphatically necessary that you close your administration without any unpaid debts.

The action of the Legislature with regard to state aid has not yet been determined. I hope sufficient funds will be allowed to carry out the several laws. It does not seem now that this will be the case with respect to the Equalizing Law. Insufficient funds have been allowed on account of the 1920 deficit and insufficient funds have likewise been allowed on account of the equalization law for 1921.

Yours respectfully,
J. E. Swearingen,
State Supt. of Education

Deputy Collectors Coming

Deputy Collectors Buckley and Roper will be at Kingstree, Monday February 21st, for the purpose of assisting taxpayers in preparing individual income tax returns for the year 1920.

SANTEE BRIDGE BONDS ARE SOLD

SALE OF BONDS TO THE EXTENT OF \$200,000 AT \$101 AND INTEREST

The Charleston News and Courier of yesterday carries the following news item, which will be of pleasing interest to a majority of the Record's readers:

It was announced yesterday that the bonds for the Santee river bridge district—Charleston, Berkeley and Williamsburg counties—had been sold through Lawrence M. Pinckney for \$101 and accrued interest. The issue totals \$200,000 and will be used in the construction of the bridge across the Santee river, about sixty miles from Charleston.

This is considered an excellent price for the bonds and the commissioners are reported to be well pleased with the record. Some time ago bids for these bonds were opened, but they were rejected because the commissioners felt that a higher price was to be had. Their judgment in the matter has been vindicated.

It is the purpose of the commissioners to carry forward to the work of building the bridge and the necessary highways as soon as possible. The commissioners have been earnestly studying the various little problems relative to the enterprise, which will mean a great deal to the entire coastal section of the state. Want of a new bridge has virtually separated the Pee Dee and Santee sections.

Mr. W. King McDowell of Charleston, is chairman and Mr. William F. Burguson, of Charleston, secretary of the commissioners, representing the counties of Charleston, Berkeley and Williamsburg. Mr. Burguson was an indefatigable worker for the bridge measure, being a member of the state House of Representatives at the time the measure was enacted. Mr. Burguson was alert to the opportunity for getting this much wanted bridge.

Just a few days ago a party, including commissioners, inspected the Berkeley highway route and the bridge site. They were much impressed with the significance of the task before them. The route from Charleston to the bridge will be along the Meeting street road and highway to Otranto, thence by way of the state highway over Goose creek, thence through the Moncks Corner neighborhood. Each of the three counties in the bridge district is interested in bonds with which to pay for the construction.

Dr. Whaling Visits Virginia Town

Dr. Thornton Whaling, seventeen years ago the beloved pastor of the Lexington Presbyterian church and now president of the Presbyterian Theological seminary in Columbia, S. C., paid Lexington a visit Saturday and Sunday. Saturday he mingled among old friends. Sunday he spoke three times most delightfully.

His first address was Sunday morning to the corps of cadets in Jackson Hall where he made a strong appeal to his young audience to be partners and coworkers with God in his great program of building the world. This he showed they might be in any worthy vocation which would make them bigger, better men and bless their fellows as they followed the Golden Rule, the foundation of the modern science of sociology. The cadets dwelt intently upon his words in which humor and story were not lacking as he drove home the great truths.

In the afternoon Dr. Whaling spoke to Washington and Lee men at the Y. M. C. A. social. The thought was sin strikingly emphasized by the subject, "Hitting the Mark," the words in the Bible describing sin he pointed out mean "Missing the Mark."

At the Presbyterian church he was greeted by a large congregation and preached a great sermon on "Saintliness" as illustrated by the life and writings of the Prophet Isaiah.

We reproduce the above, taken from a Lexington newspaper, for the benefit of our readers in this community who know and love Dr. Whaling, he having supplied the Presbyterian pulpit here during the past year.

Mrs. C. L. Garner of Georgetown, and Rev. D. M. Clark of Andrews, passed through town on Monday to attend the burial of little Christoble Burgess in the Mouzon section.

Mr. H. P. Brown of Lane was in town on business yesterday.